(d) Efforts are continuing to get their release. The deadline set by the kidnappers has been extended several times anci the talks between the transport company KGL and the kidnappers through mediators are continuing.

Attack on Indians in Gulf

1705. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the authorities are aware of the increasing attacks towards the life and property of Indian citizens working in Gulf countries and other middle east countries;

(b) if so, the details of such attacks including loss of property and life for the last three years, year-wise, country-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any action is taken for an early access of the Indian citizens to the Indian Embassies after the mishap;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial compensation, if any, provided to above Indian citizens and the reasons for increasing number of such incidents towards Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No. There are no reports of increasing attacks on Indians in Gulf countries and other middle east countries;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Indian Missions/Posts abroad are always accessible to Indians including those in distress. In countries with large number of Indians workers, Indian Missions/Posts have separate Labour/Welfare wings to attend to issues and problems faced by them. From 8th of July our Mission in Riyadh and Jeddah have started "Open House" on Second Thrusday of every month from 2 pm to 5 pm for Indians in Saudi Arabia to interact with Mission Officials to resolve their problems, if any. In Riyadh 24 hr. Helpline has started for Indian national to interact about problems, if any.

(e) Does not arise.